



AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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“The Log” 28 June 2011



Hello and welcome to this week’s edition of “The Log”, the Australian Forest Contractors Association Ltd’s own internal electronic Newsletter for all of our Members and Corporate Partner Sponsors.

Firstly this week our friends at the CRC for Forestry have released another of their information Bulletins.

Bulletin No 18 looks at “Harvesting stemwood waste pieces in pine clearfall”

With increased demand for forest products and decreased access to forest resource, it is becoming more important to maximise the volume of wood recovered from every harvesting operation. One way to achieve this is to use existing harvesting machinery to extract tree tops and larger stemwood waste pieces that do not meet existing sawlog and pulpwood specifications and would otherwise be left in the forest. These waste pieces can be chipped for pulp or for biomass fuel.

This study aimed to investigate the productivity and cost impacts of extracting stemwood waste, also known as ‘FibrePlus’, during a typical cut-to-length clearfall harvesting operation in a thinned radiata pine plantation, and to assess the suitability of FibrePlus for papermaking.

As usual, if you would like a copy of this Bulletin, please contact me and I’ll forward it out to you.

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Speaking of the CRC Forestry, last week AFCA Director Barry Fennell and I attended their Harvesting Program Consultative Committee Meeting that was held in Melbourne amongst all of the aviation flight problems.

The meetings update the Committee on the activities of the CRC, on the progress of its research programs, and on the future of the organisation. Currently CRCF is nearing the end of its currently federally funded term and is trying to plan for life beyond 30 June 2012.

During the day, I pointed out that while the results of the research are no doubt important and valuable, they often rely on a surety of tenure and a long term perspective for those who are putting them into

practice. Unfortunately this is not being guaranteed for many Contractors, and so some who may want to take advantage of them are not able to because of an uncertain future.

Another issue which CRCF needs to be aware of is that again those higher quality Contractors who are more likely to incorporate the research outcomes into their businesses, are often not being awarded new tenders, often losing out for miniscule differences in rates by newer and less highly rated Contractors, who are usually less likely to include research outcomes in their operations.

Therefore, CRCF need to realise that their take up rates of the research outcomes could well be lower because of these two factors.

These comments were met with the expected eerie silence from the representatives of the many principle companies in the room. I wonder really what they thought!!

We all hope however that CRC's bid for survival in its present form will be successful, but whatever happens, it is expected that the research body will continue to exist in some form or other. Other options are currently being explored for the future and we will get a clearer picture when the next meeting is held early in 2012.

We wish them well in their pursuits. Research and development (R&D) is an important part of any industry, and as our industry leaders AFPA (formerly NAFI & A3P) commented in their most recent industry newsletter: "The CRC for Forestry is also facing a rigorous and highly competitive rebid process and its success in that process is vital to the future of forestry R&D in Australia"

From time to time we receive requests from people looking to make contacts for employment in the industry. This time we are pleased to pass on some communication that the Forest Industry Council in Tumut NSW has received from a couple of Danish forestry employees.

"We are two students (Age 30 and 33), currently 1½ years into our education as forestry workers at the Danish Forestry College, University of Copenhagen. We are currently exploring the possibilities for working in Australia for a 2 months period during our education, and would like to enquire if you have any interest in forestry students from abroad getting experience in Australia, perhaps with companies within forestry or arboriculture.



We are both currently employed in a large Danish forestry company (HedeDanmark). We have been working manually using chainsaws and in other forest related tasks. We both hold the UK chainsaw certificates CS30 and CS31 and have both been travelling a lot and speak English".



If you are interested it talking to these two people, again please contact me and I'll give you their details.

And now some information for our haulage members who may be employing drivers under Transport Awards. We have received copies of two new publications developed in conjunction with the Fair Work Ombudsman. They cover the employer's obligations under the following transportation awards:

- The Road Transport and Distribution Award, and
- The Road Transport (Long Distance Operations) Award.

They are written in plain language, easy to understand and cover many different aspects of employment. They are also both available on the web.

If you would like to have a look at the contents, go to, www.artio.org.au,

Last week our Chairman Colin McCulloch attended the long discussions held by the parties to the new Tasmanian Forest Principles Agreement. We thank him for giving up such extensive amounts of time away from his own business to represent Contractors at these talks.



The following is an extract from the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) media release issued following the talks:

“The Tasmanian Forest process being facilitated by Bill Kelty has moved one step further with a draft agreement document being completed by signatories late last week. It is understood that Mr Kelty has provided a copy of the draft, yet to be ratified by signatories, to the Federal and State Governments for consideration. The agreement outlines guaranteed wood supplies of:

- 155,000 m3 of HQ sawlogs (Cat 1&3) per annum
- 265,000 m3 of veneer peeler billets per annum
- 12,5000 m3 of special species per annum

This guaranteed wood supply is to be underpinned by long term compensable contracts to 2027 in accordance with the undertaking from the Tasmanian Premier. Subject to the industry's wood supply being guaranteed, the agreement will consider scope for reservation of areas identified as part of the ENGO claim.



AFPA's transitional CEO, Allan Hansard, told the ABC's *The World Today* on Friday that the deal is historic but it will really depend on the goodwill going forward from all the parties. He added “The environmental groups or the industry aren't the forest managers here. We think we've got a way that we can meet the requirements of the

industry and the environmental groups but the next stage really needs to have the Government work with us.”

We will continue to watch the progress of these talks with interest

And finally this week, I have received the following email from Adan Taylor who is one of our AFCA members in Queensland.



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“I have had a meeting with the not-for-profit organisation that has taken over management of a Woodworks Museum in Gympie. We are going to work towards making it a modern advertisement for the Timber industry (like a resource centre) and to try and help tell our story in terms of sustainability and carbon negativity.



This will be a long-term project, but one that I regard as being extremely important to the timber industry in general, and certainly here in Queensland. Being someone who wishes to make the Timber industry my life for the next 40 odd years, I will be throwing a great deal of my efforts into it to attempt to change perceptions up here.

We have a number of things going for us, including the immensely popular “Mary Valley Rattler” steam train which travels out to where our harvesting is based in Imbil, as well as a rich timber heritage.



I will endeavour to keep AFCA informed of the progress, and am hopeful to gain the support of many of the larger stakeholders in our Queensland industry, such as the likes of Hyne, Laminex, FPQ, ForestWorks and many of our big suppliers.

I am just wondering if AFCA can help me to potentially source any information of successfully run versions of this from around the country. Also where I could find any audio visual or other such reference material to help commence constructing a “harvest & haulage” section of the centre. I would also be interested to talk to anyone with experience in running tours of “live” harvesting sites”.

We are really keen to assist Adan with this project so if you have any information or contacts that might be helpful, please send them to me and I will forward them on to Adan. Thank you for your help.

Well, that’s all for this week. Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of “The Log”. We hope you all have a safe and profitable week and we look forward to bringing you some more news from our industry again next week.



Regards to all
David Drane



Log carting in Bali